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Kenneth Schofield

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EXAMINER

CZEKAJ, DAVID J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2621

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/643,602	Applicant(s) SCHOFIELD ET AL.	
	Examiner DAVID CZEKAJ	Art Unit 2621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 October 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 50-52, 56, 58, 61, 67 and 92-109 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 50-52, 56, 58, 61, 67 and 92-109 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to the rejection(s) of the claim(s) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made as set forth below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 50, 52, 56, 58, 62, and 67 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Secor (5289321) in view of Fukuhara (4653316) in further view of Choi (5121200).

Regarding claim 50, Secor discloses an apparatus that relates to vehicle cameras (Secor: column 1, lines 7-10). This apparatus comprises "a vehicle equipped with at least two image capture devices for capturing an image external of the vehicle, the devices having overlapping fields of view" (Secor: figure 4; column 4, lines 13-22, wherein the side camera 34 and side camera (22 or 20) have an overlapping field of view) and "the vehicle is equipped with a display screen displaying the image, being viewable by a driver of the vehicle when the driver is normally operating the vehicle" (Secor: column 4, lines 28-36). However, this apparatus lacks the synthesizing and

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single display as claimed. Fukuhara teaches that prior art monitoring systems have impaired synchronism and the analysis of the entire data cannot be made adequately and readily (Fukuhara: column 1, lines 15-21). To help alleviate this problem, Fukuhara discloses "an image processor producing a synthesized image from the outputs of the image capture devices by at least one of: luminant blending, chrominant blending, dynamic range extending, pixel group compensation, anti-blooming, multiple exposure, image morphing compensation, or image warping compensation" (Fukuhara: figures 4 and 8; column 4, lines 13-26). Choi teaches that there is a need in prior art vehicle camera systems to better help protect the camera system (Choi: column 1, lines 52-55). To help alleviate this problem, Choi discloses "an image displayed on a single display screen viewable by a driver" (Choi: figure 4). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to take the apparatus disclosed by Secor and add the processing taught by Fukuhara and Choi in order to obtain an apparatus that provides data more readily.

Regarding claim 52, Secor discloses "one of the two image capture devices have their fields of view in a direction generally rearward with respect to the vehicle"" (Secor: figure 2).

Regarding claim 56, although not disclosed, it would have been obvious to use CMOS imaging arrays (Official Notice). Doing so would have been obvious in order to capture high quality images.

Regarding claim 58, although not disclosed, it would have been obvious for the display screen to comprise a cathode ray tube (Official Notice). Doing so would have

been obvious in order to provide a high quality display for the captured images.

Regarding claim 62, Secor discloses “a display screen viewable by an occupant of the vehicle wherein the screen is one of positioned within the field of view of the driver” (Secor: column 4, lines 28-35).

Regarding claim 67, note the examiners rejection for claim 50.

3. Claim 51 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Secor (5289321) in view of Fukuhara (4653316) in further view of Choi (5121200) in further view of Tuck (4772942).

Regarding claim 51, note the examiners rejection for claim 50 and in addition, claim 51 differs from claim 50 in that claim 50 further requires arranging the images in the same orientation. Tuck teaches that there is a need in the art for the obviation of correction of distortion (Tuck: column 1, lines 40-45). To help alleviate this, Tuck discloses “the synthesized image comprises at least two image portions arranged on the screen in the same orientation as the locations of the capture devices wherein the image portions are reverse row sequenced” (Tuck: figure 4; column 4, lines 60-67, wherein reversed row processing is a well know technique when synthesizing image data). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the processing taught by Tuck in order to obtain an apparatus that eliminates the distortion of an image.

4. Claims 92-99 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Secor (5289321) in view of Tuck (4772942) in further view of Choi (5121200).

Regarding claim 92, Secor discloses an apparatus that relates to vehicle

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cameras (Secor: column 1, lines 7-10). This apparatus comprises "at least three image capture devices mounted to the vehicle and directed rearwardly with respect to the direction of travel" (Secor: figure 2; column 3, lines 45-60), "at least two cameras being side image capture devices mounted on opposite sides of the vehicle and one image device being a center image mounted between the two side image devices" (Secor: figure 2; column 3, lines 45-55) and "displaying an image on a display screen of the vehicle that is viewable by a driver of the vehicle when the driver is normally operating the vehicle" (Secor: column 4, lines 28-36). However, this apparatus lacks the synthesized image, non-parallel axes, and single display screen as claimed. Tuck teaches that there is a need in the art for the obviation of correction of distortion (Tuck: column 1, lines 40-45). To help alleviate this, Tuck discloses "displaying a composite image synthesized from outputs of the capture device, the displayed image including an image portion from each of the capture devices" (Tuck: figures 3 and 4) and "the capture devices are aimed along non-parallel axes" (Tuck: figure 3). Choi teaches that there is a need in prior art vehicle camera systems to better help protect the camera system (Choi: column 1, lines 52-55). To help alleviate this problem, Choi discloses "an image displayed on a single display screen viewable by a driver" (Choi: figure 4). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to take the apparatus disclosed by Secor, add the processing taught by Tuck, and add the display screen taught by Choi in order to obtain an apparatus that eliminates the distortion of an image.

Regarding claim 93, Secor discloses "one of side image capture devices images

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a side blind spot and the other of the two image capture devices images a side blind spot on the respective side of the vehicle, wherein the center image capture device mounted images a rear blind spot at the rear of the vehicle" (Secor: figure 2).

Regarding claim 94, Secor discloses "at least one of: the center image capture device has a horizontal field of view that is generally symmetrical about the longitudinal axis of the vehicle" (Secor: figure 2; column 3, lines 45-55).

Regarding claim 95, Tuck discloses "one of: composite image approximates a view from a single location" (Tuck: figure 4; column 4, lines 63-67, wherein the composite image indicates a view from a single location).

Regarding claim 96, Secor in view of Tuck disclose "the composite image provides the driver a sense of perspective in order to enhance the drivers ability to maneuver rearwardly" (Secor: figure 2; Tuck: column 4, lines 40-65).

Regarding claim 97, Tuck discloses "a graphic overlay superimposed on the composite image" (Tuck: column 5, lines 20-22).

Regarding claim 98, note the examiners rejection for claim 56.

Regarding claim 99, note the examiners rejection for claims 92, 97, and 98.

5. Claims 100-109 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Secor (5289321) in view of Tuck (4772942) in further view of Choi (5121200) in further view of Kishi et al. (5414461), (hereinafter referred to as "Kishi").

Regarding claim 100, note the examiners rejection for claim 92, and in addition, claim 100 differs from claim 92 in that claim 100 further requires the graphic to be overlayed when the vehicle is in reverse. Kishi teaches that it is well known that when a

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switch is activated (such as a switch to reverse), displaying a graphic on a screen (Kishi: column 1, lines 20-29. Hence, the combination of Kishi with Secor and Tuck teach overlaying the graphic when the vehicle is in reverse). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the graphic overlay taught by Kishi in order to provide a way to only display graphics when needed.

Regarding claim 101, Secor discloses "one of: the single location is forward of the drive with respect to the direction of travel" (Secor: figure 2, wherein when the driver is in reverse, the forward direction would be to the rear of the vehicle).

Regarding claim 102, note the examiners rejection for claim 92.

Regarding claim 103, although not disclosed, it would have been obvious to vertically compress the image (Official Notice). Doing so would have been obvious in order to reduce that data size of the overall image).

Regarding claim 104, note the examiners rejection for claim 56.

Regarding claim 105, note the examiners rejections for claims 50, 93, and 100.

Regarding claims 106-107, although not disclosed, it would have been obvious for the overlay to indicate a function of direction of travel and speed or distance (Official Notice). Doing so would have been obvious in order to better help give information to a driver when reversing the vehicle.

Regarding claim 108, note the examiners rejection for claim 101.

Regarding claim 109, note the examiners rejection for claim 92, and in addition

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Kishi discloses "image morphing/warping" (Kishi: figure s3-6, wherein the use of mirrors indicate morphing/warping).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DAVID CZEKAJ whose telephone number is (571)272-7327. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mehrdad Dastouri can be reached on (571) 272-7418. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Dave Czekaj/
Examiner, Art Unit 2621